

233 South Wacker Drive Suite 800 Chicago, Illinois 60606

312 454 0400 www.cmap.illinois.gov

Environment and Natural Resources CommitteeDRAFT Minutes

Wednesday, March 7, 2012 9:30 a.m.

Offices of the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning DuPage County Conference Room 233 S. Wacker Drive, Suite 800 Chicago, Illinois 60606

Committee Members

Present:

Jack Darin – Illinois Sierra Club, Sean Weidel – City of Chicago, Joe Schuessler – Metropolitan Water Reclamation District, Marty Jaffe – University of Illinois at Chicago, Lenore Beyer-Clow – Openlands, Frank Coconate – Cook County Department of Environmental Control, Patty Werner – Lake County SMC, Mike Sullivan – Kane/Kendall CoM, Harlan Spiroff – DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference, Jon Grosshans – USEPA, Anne McKibben – CNT Energy, Martha Dooley – Village of

Schaumburg

Others Present: Tam Kutzmark - DMMC, Beata Walsh – RTA, Christina Donley

BB&J Group

Staff Present: Jesse Elam, Hala Ahmed, Tim Loftus

1.0 Call to Order

Jack called the meeting to order at 9:33 am. A round of introductions followed.

2.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements

There were no agenda changes or announcements.

3.0 Approval of the Minutes-January 4, 2012

It was noted that Sean Weidel was not present at the January meeting. The minutes were approved.

4.0 Coordinating Committees Update

Both the Local and Regional Coordinating Committees had met in February. Local had discussed the upcoming Local Technical Assistance call for projects, while Regional had discussed performance-based transportation programming.

5.0 21st Century Chicago Area Waterway Study

Dave Ullrich from the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative gave a presentation, referring to a PowerPoint, on its recently completed study of options for physically separating the Great Lakes from the Mississippi basins. The study was funded by The Joyce Foundation and five other foundations, the purpose being to show that separation is possible and to try to hasten the results of the broader study on the same issue being conducted by the Army Corps of Engineers. The study examined three alternatives: placing a single barrier downstream of the Cal Sag Channel, placing several barriers immediately at Lake Michigan, and a mid-system option, involving four barriers near the original subcontinental divide. He noted some of the positive and negative aspects of each. The single-barrier approach is relatively simple, but it implies extensive surface flow back to Lake Michigan, which would require treating wastewater to a much higher degree. The near-lake approach requires investment in new port facilities, while the midsystem alternative requires more complex barriers as well as medium levels of investment in shipping facilities and wastewater treatment process upgrades.

In response to a question, Dave noted that the next steps are to provide the information in the study to decision-makers, to do more extensive economic analysis on the costs and benefits of each approach, and to work with the Corps to speed up its study (the Great Lakes and Mississippi River Interbasin Study, known as GLMRIS). He mentioned that it would be desirable to see more work done on how to finance the infrastructure upgrades. A member asked about whether there were connections to the Great Lakes through the Ohio River; Dave said that, yes, there is a connection from the Ohio to the Wabash through a wetland. The Great Lakes Cities Initiative's study was defined in terms of the Chicago Area Waterway System, while the Corps is examining 18 potential connections. In response to a question about the level of benefit that Canada would see from basin separation, Dave said he would like to call the benefits equal, but that the US side of the basin had much more population.

6.0 GO TO 2040 implementation report

Jesse mentioned that the report for the first year of GO TO 2040 implementation had been published and gave out copies to ENR members, thanking them for their contributions, i.e., write-ups on partner initiatives.

7.0 CMAP projects in the environmental area

Jesse gave an overview of several environmental projects at CMAP, including the 2010 greenhouse gas inventory, the Green Infrastructure Vision update, and CMAP's involvement in planning for the Illinois Route 53 extension into Lake County with the Illinois State Toll Highway Authority. Tim reviewed water-related projects, saying that CMAP's most recent round of watershed plans in the Fox River basin had been completed. Staff had been supporting the Northwest Water Planning Alliance, a groundwater-dependent group of local governments formed from the experience of water supply planning under Executive Order 2006-1. Staff had also been carrying out Local Technical Assistance projects in Orland Park and Oak Park to promote water conservation. Patty mentioned that SMC did not receive Clean Water Act Section 319 funds to carry out

watershed planning and said that "CMAP may be the only game in town" in terms of planning. SMC would not be able to do watershed plans if it could share the costs with the state. Tim indicated that CMAP would be shifting its focus to supporting and helping implement existing watershed plans.

8.0 Other Business

The committee had a discussion of proposed upcoming agenda items: the Illinois DNR budget, full-cost pricing, an appearance by the Illinois EPA director, and an update on the Facility Planning Area amendment process.

9.0 Public Comment

There were no comments from the public.

10.0 Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Jesse Elam

Committee Liaison

04-24-2012